

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 HEW-08 L-03

TRSE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ICD/TRP:PPPILKAUSKAS/EB/ITP/STA:FSHOUP:DE

APPROVED BY EB/ICD/TRP:TTTURQMAN

ARA/EP:KGUTHRIE

ARA/NC:MFORESTER

ARA/BR:DKEMP

ARA/ECP:CREYNOLDS

FAS:LHURT

COMM:HBASHKIN

----- 050251

R 221724Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

SUBJECT: DDT (PESTICIDE) RESIDUE IN COCOA BEANS FROM
ECUADOR, VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL

1. THIRTY LOTS COMPRISING FOUR SEPARATE SHIPMENTS OF
ECUADORIAN COCOA, TWO LOTS IN TWO DIFFERENT SHIPMENTS OF
VENEZUELAN COCOA, AND TWO LOTS IN ONE SHIPMENT OF BRAZILIAN
COCOA HAVE BEEN DETAINED AT U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY BY FDA
(FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION) INSPECTORS DUE TO EXCESSIVE
DDT RESIDUE LEVELS. THE ECUADORIAN DETENTIONS OCCURRED
APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 1, 1973, SEPTEMBER 1, 1973, OCTOBER 1,
1973, AND NOVEMBER 15, 1973. THE VENEZUELAN DETENTIONS WERE
ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 15, 1973 AND OCTOBER 15, 1973. THE
BRAZILIAN DETENTIONS WERE IN LATE DECEMBER 1973. THE
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BRAZILIAN LOTS MAY ALSO CONTAIN UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF

AFLATOXIN. OTHER SHIPMENTS FROM ALL THREE COUNTRIES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS HAVE ENTERED FREE OF EXCESSIVE DDT RESIDUE LEVELS. THE DETAINED SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE EITHER DESTROYED OR RE-EXPORTED TO COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER TOLERANCE LEVELS. BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT DEMAND/SUPPLY SITUATION FOR COCOA IN THE WORLD MARKET IT IS LIKELY THAT ANY DIVERTED SHIPMENTS WILL EASILY FIND OTHER MARKETS. INDUSTRY SOURCES, MOREOVER, CLAIM THE FORWARD BUYING OF ECUADORIAN AND VENEZUELAN COCOA FOR THE UNITED STATES MARKET HAS ALMOST STOPPED.

2. FDA STANDARDS ON DDT ESTABLISH A GUIDELINE OF 0.5

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AFLATOXIN, WITH NO DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN WHOLE COCOA AFLATOXIN, WITH NO DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN WHOLE COCOA BEANS AND COCOA NIBS. LABORATORY ANALYSES ARE USUALLY PERFORMED ON THE FAT CONTENT RENDERED FROM THE NIB, HOWEVER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COCOA MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA IS GOING TO REQUEST A REVIEW OF FDA STANDARDS ON DDT, BUT THIS WOULD HAVE NO IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THE CURRENT ENTRY DIFFICULTIES. A U.S. PROCESSOR REPORTED THAT AFLATOXIN TOLERANCES HAD BEEN EXCEEDED IN THE BRAZILIAN SHIPMENT. AFLATOXIN RESULTS FROM MOLD FORMATION ORIGINATING IN STORAGE IN DAMP LOCATIONS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT ADDRESSEE POSTS REPORT ANY INDICATION THAT REJECTION OF THESE SHIPMENTS HAS CAUSED CONCERN IN THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER POSTS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY EITHER HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR COCOA GROWER ASSOCIATIONS CONCERNING THE DDT RESIDUE ISSUE.

4. FYI. THE COCOA MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERIES OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA AND THE COCOA GROWER ASSOCIATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE BAHIA COCOA GROWERS IN BRAZIL. IN ADDITION, THE FDA DIRECTLY NOTIFIED THE ECUADORIAN AND VENEZUELAN EMBASSIES OF THE DETENTION ACTION TAKEN DURING THE AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1973 PERIOD. KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PPPILKAUSKAS/EB/ITP/STA:FSHOUP:DE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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